

REMARKS

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted for entry in the above-identified application.

AMENDMENT TO THE TITLE AND SPECIFICATION

The title of the application has been amended herein as approved and entered in the parent case, to be more descriptive of the invention.

The specification has been amended herein to identify the prior application upon which benefit is claimed in the present case under §120.

CLAIMS FOR PRIORITY

Applicant claims priority under §120 of the prior application Serial No. 09/231,798 filed 15 January 1999. Written acknowledgment of the domestic claim under §120 is respectfully requested.

Applicant claims foreign priority under §119 of JP 10-006320 filed 16 January 1998. The claim for priority and the certified copy of the priority document was filed with the prior application on 15 January 1999. A verified English language translation of the priority document was filed in the parent application on 23 July 2002. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests written acknowledgment of the perfection of the foreign claim for priority under §119 in the present continuation.

PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 1-21 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Unrelated to any prior art cited in any prior application, appropriate

claims have been added in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. Upon entry of this paper, new Claims 22-25 are pending for examination and consideration in the present case.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

An Information Disclosure Statement complying with all of the requirements under §§1.97 and 1.98 is being submitted concurrently herewith to identify all of the art cited to and by the Office in the parent application.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. area number 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendment or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

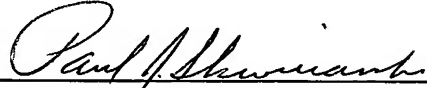
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application patentably distinguish over any art. Accordingly, allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with the above-identified application, and is therefore timely submitted. No Petition for extension of time is possible or required. Further, upon entry of the present paper, four (4) claims total, including two (2) independent claims, will be pending in the present application. Therefore, no additional fees are required for entry of this

Preliminary Amendment. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to ATS&K Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.36859CX1).

Respectfully submitted,



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